

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 8, respectively. Claims 2 and 8 are cancelled.

Claim rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 6-9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by French et al. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The invention, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, is directed to a fuel injection valve having a casing 1 and a soft resin/rubber coating 14 over an envelope of hard resin 12 that defines an outer periphery of the casing. As explained in paragraphs [0021] and [0027] with respect to the first embodiment and paragraph [0033] with respect to the second embodiment, the soft resin coating 14, 14' serves as a soundproofing cover.

Independent claims 1 and 7 expressly state that a cover is arranged on an outer periphery of the casing, where the cover is molded out of a soft resin containing a rubber. The original claims do not specify the content of the outer periphery of the casing, but dependent claims 2 and 8 specify that the outer periphery of the casing is molded out of a hard resin. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 8, respectively.

Independent claim 6 states that a cover is arranged over an outer periphery of the casing, where the cover is made of a soft resin containing a rubber. An envelope, which conceals an outer periphery of a coil and a portion extending to the connector, is molded out of a hard resin, wherein the envelope is concealed within the cover.

French et al

The patent to French et al teaches a fuel injection valve with a metal casing 70 and a soft rubber cover 110, which is arranged on the outer periphery of the casing 70. The Examiner asserts that the envelope 98 is made of a hard resin and conceals the outer periphery of the coil 66 and the cover 110.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's reference to Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 49+, for a teaching with respect to the relationship between the hard and soft resin coatings, the hard resin cover 98

in French is located over the periphery of the soft resin 110. By contrast, claims 1, 3, 7 and 9, as now amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 8, specify that the soft resin is over the hard resin coating. Thus, these claims cannot be anticipated.

Original claim 6 is patentable because it specifies that the envelope is concealed within the cover. Again, original claim 6 cannot be anticipated.

Based upon these differences, which provides the advantages of a better sound and vibration proofing, the claims clearly are distinguishable over the prior art.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Clams 4, 5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over French et al in view of Takehisa et al. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The claims are patentable because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1 and 7, respectively. Moreover, Takehisa et al does not remedy the deficiencies of French et al. Takehisa et al is simply cited for a ratio of 50-50 resin to rubber and a ratio of 90:20. The Examiner recognizes this deficiency but asserts that it would be obvious to modify French et al to have that ratio.

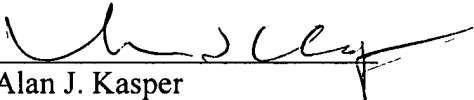
However, the disclosure in Takehisa et al merely concerns a gypsum composition for a gypsum thermo plastic composite, which has no disclosed relationship to a fuel injection valve. There is no teaching or suggestion that the composition could be used in the high temperature, high vibration environment contemplated by the present invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/798,343

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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